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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Ishii. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 14 recite, amongst other things, a fairing disposed behind the seat. Claim 1 further recites that the fairing comprises a storage compartment, claims 9 and 14 further recite that the fairing includes an upper portion and a lower portion wherein a storage compartment is formed between the upper and lower portions.

Ishii describes a conventional seat having a rigid base upon which a foam is placed for the driver to be seated. At the rear end of the seat, the foam comprises a cavity, which is used as a storage compartment. The storage compartment has a lid, which is formed in part by the cover of the seat. The storage compartment is not made from a fairing but from the base, the foam, and the cover of the seat itself. Such a conventional storage compartment is described in paragraphs 49 and 50 and shown in figures 1 and 2 of the present application. Ishii does not disclose nor describe a fairing at the rear end of the seat, let alone a fairing including an upper portion and a lower portion wherein the storage cavity is formed between the upper and lower portions.

Claims 1-6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) over Savage in view of Hanagan. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants believe that the combination of Hanagan with Savage is not appropriate. Savage discloses a snowmobile wherein the seat extends to the end of the snowmobile frame and the exhaust system extends under the seat and out the rear end thereof. Hanagan describes a removable storage compartment adapted to be installed on the rear fender of a motorcycle. There is thus no fender or any additional structure on which to attach the removable storage compartment of Hanagan behind the seat of the snowmobile of Savage. (Clearly one would not

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attach the removable storage compartment to the exhaust pipe which extends beyond the seat of Savage.)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 103(a) over Savage, in view of Hanagan, in further view of Ishii. The Examiner believes it would have been obvious to modify the snowmobile storage compartment of Savage as modified by Hanagan to include the tail light of Ishii. The Applicants believe that this rejection should have been directed to claim 7 or claim 14 because claim 2 does not include the limitation of having a tail light. Only claims 7 and 14 have such a limitation. Irrespective of which claim the rejection was intended, claims 2 and 7 are believed to be patentable with respect to base claim 1 as discussed above. Claim 14 is also believed to be patentable because the combination of Savage and Hanagan as discussed above, is believed to be inappropriate, and because Ishii is silent about having a tail light in the lower portion of the storage compartment. Because Hanagan describes a removable storage compartment, the tail light cannot be connected to the removable storage compartment since once the storage compartment is removed, the tail light will be removed with it, thus rendering the vehicle unsafe if not inoperable. Therefore, the combination of Savage, Hanagan and Ishii cannot render obvious claims 2, 7, or 14.

It is also stated in the Office Action that Savage as modified by Hanagan discloses all the claimed limitations of claims 9-13. As discussed above with respect to claims 1-6 and 8, it is believed that the combination of Savage and Hanagan is inappropriate as the removable storage of Hanagan cannot be added to the snowmobile of Savage.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections are respectfully requested.

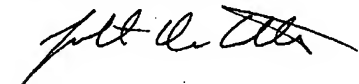
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the currently pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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